

CPYRGHT

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**Viet Nam Coup,
Surprised U.S.
Military Leader**

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (UPI) — Reliable sources said today that the Nov. 1 coup against President Ngo Dinh Diem caught U. S. military commander Gen. Paul D. Harkins by surprise despite warnings from his subordinates.

The U. S. Military Assistance Command formally denied the report that Harkins had ignored warnings. It said the coup leaders maintained strict secrecy until the time of their attack.

The sources said Harkins also sent a paragraph in a report to Washington from the military and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) here saying he did not believe a coup was imminent.

They said that after the beginning of the coup, Harkins asked to have the paragraph deleted from the report.